

Hamilton Field, Paint, Oil, and Dope House
(Facility No. 315)
Northwest of 2nd Street and Hangar Avenue
intersection
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AL

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD Paint, Oil, and Dope House (Facility No. 315)

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HABS No. CA-2398-AL

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Paint, Oil, and Dope House
Facility No. 315 (northwest of 2nd Street and Hangar Avenue intersection)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinetes: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; 8: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Completed in 1932, this is one of the first industrial structures built on the base, used for storing and dispensing oil and "dope," a technical term for any viscous chemical product used in base machine and repair shops. The building is significant as an example of the application of an important architectural trend (Spanish Colonial Revival) adapted to reflect California's mission heritage in a dramatic departure from traditional military architecture.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

This building is a simple one-story rectangular concrete and stucco structure with a shed roof covered with composition shingles and a reinforced concrete foundation. It has seven 10-light industrial metal sash windows on the south wall. The central six-lights form an awning window. There are double-hinged metal doors on each end. Small, rectangular louvers extend below each window along the base of the building. The large oil storage tanks that were once connected to the north side are now part of an auxiliary paint and dope house opposite the tanks. A small extension was added to the east side of the building after World War II but did not noticeably alter the original appearance.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section 8 in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

**HAMILTON FIELD
Paint, Oil, and Dope House
(Facility No. 315)**

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Completed on April 12, 1932, for \$3,227.00, the paint, oil, and dope house was used by the Air Corps for storing and dispensing products used in base machine and repair activities. It retained this use into the 1970s.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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Date of photographs: April 1993

